



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Weather conditions became much less dry as rain moved into the area; grass is growing and topsoil moisture has improved, but the moisture has increased disease pressure in fruits and small grains. Farming activities for the week included planting corn and preparing fields for soybeans. Scouting for damages continues from the recent freezes; there have been more reports of freeze damage in wheat.

SOIL MOISTURE and SUPPLIES for week ending 05/01/16

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	9	30	58	3
Subsoil	5	27	67	1
Hay & Roughage	16	36	44	4

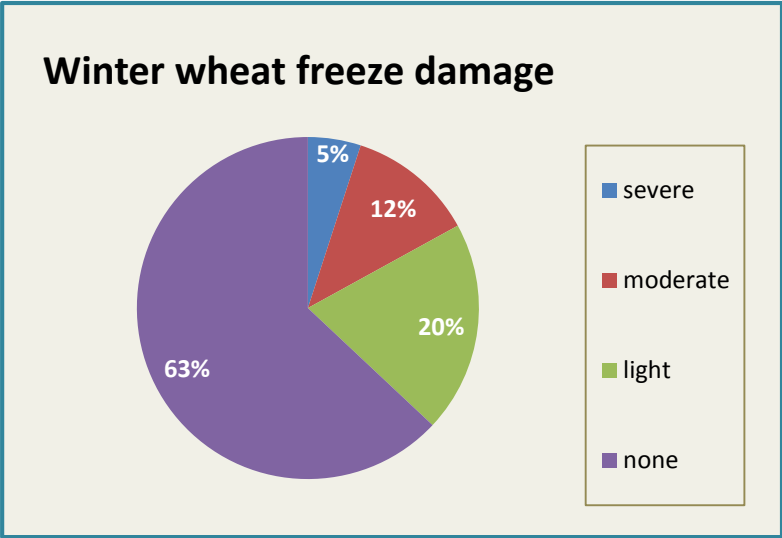
- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 05/01/16

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Apples	3	13	78	6	-
Grapes	1	41	47	11	-
Peaches	5	20	71	4	-
Barley	3	9	40	45	3
Hay, Alfalfa	7	11	31	47	4
Hay, Other	7	19	31	40	3
Oats	-	4	44	46	6
Potatoes, Summer	-	15	25	60	-
Tobacco, Greenhouse	-	-	8	38	54
Winter wheat	1	7	29	55	8
Pasture	11	25	30	30	4
Livestock	2	9	33	47	9

-Represents zero.

WINTER WHEAT for week ending 05/01/16

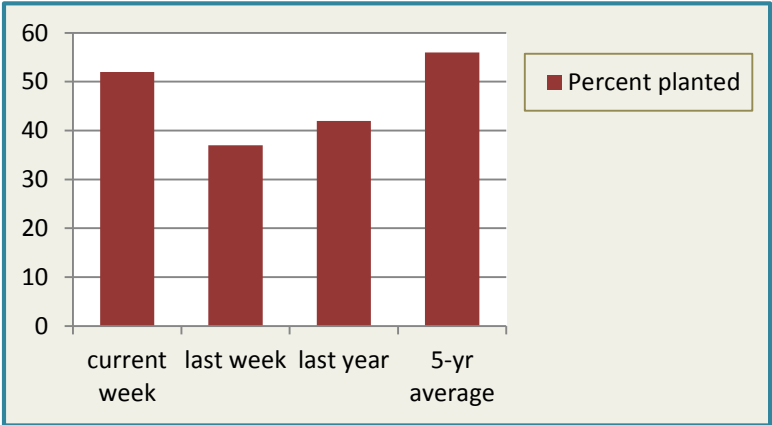


CROP PROGRESS for week ending 05/01/16

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Corn planted	52	37	42	56
Corn emerged	27	5	14	27
Cotton planted	11	5	-	6
Peanuts planted	5	-	-	2
Potatoes, Summer planted	85	70	95	98
Tobacco, Flue-cured transplanted	5	-	6	11
Tobacco, Greenhouse seeded	92	85	-	-
Winter wheat headed	45	16	12	41

- Represents data not available.

CORN PLANTED for week ending 05/01/16



Weather Summary- For the week ending May 01, 2016

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30 norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	52	85	44	62	4	546	422	0.55	5.56	-1.75	12.85	-1.11
Norfolk	68	53	86	47	61	0	572	450	0.82	6.24	-1.18	17.11	2.36
Richmond	70	52	87	45	61	1	569	494	0.58	3.18	-4.04	10.83	-3.05
Roanoke	78	55	86	42	66	7	613	NA	0.75	3.45	-4.05	11.68	-2.06
Wash/Dulles	67	50	84	44	58	2	496	NA	0.52	3.36	-3.36	11.61	-1.00

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)
We finally got some much needed rain.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)
Rain and cloudy weather has been an issue all week. Continued colder evenings have affected growing conditions.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)
Rain showers at different points in the week were helpful to pastures and hayfields with significant rain Sunday that restored topsoil moisture for now. Rainfall totals for the week ranged from .75 to over 1 inch in the Rockbridge region.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

While we have received some rain this week, we are in need of more in most parts of the county to make up for the recent weeks of drier, hotter weather. Some producers have commented that they are worried about hay production this spring since forage growth has not been adequate to produce a desirable spring hay crop.

AMHERST (Alyssa Elliott)

Scattered rain showers all week with a couple nights = > 1.5" rain. Hay fields are starting to head.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

A lot of rainfall this past week has fallen and slowed corn planting. Otherwise, small grains look good.

NELSON (Michael LaChance)

Fruit growers are still assessing the impact of April freeze events and making necessary adjustments to their thinning operations. Cold, wet weather of past week has made it difficult.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (Mike Broaddus)

A lot of rainfall this past week has fallen and slowed corn planting. Otherwise, small grains look good.

GLOUCESTER/MATHEWS/MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Much needed rain fell across the area at the end of last week and weekend. Lots of corn emerged and wheat headed in the past 5 days. There is some slight to moderate freeze damage to wheat. Early planted corn is showing some signs of cold damage, but this is of little concern.

Have been watching wheat fields for more signs of cold damage. Symptoms that resemble Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus are very similar to cold damage in some areas. Still unsure of extent of effect on yields. Folks finishing up with corn and anticipating planting soybeans by week's end. Most wheat is heading now.

Some veggies being planted, but nothing major. Strawberries are blooming and some are being picked. Weather is still a little unsure to be setting out tomatoes, peppers, etc.

Some hay has been made, but stands are not very thick due to winter and spring weather.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Dry conditions early in the week allowed farmers to almost finish planting corn. Producers also continued preparing fields for full-season soybean planting. More reports of freeze damage in wheat were received during the week. Rainfall late in the week helped to restore soil moisture and will help the wheat crop.

NORTHAMPTON (Ursula Deitch)

The rain and warmer temperatures helped all crops recover from the freeze damage. Corn planting is continuing while soybean planting will start soon.

SOUTHWESTERN

BUCHANAN/DICKENSON (Brad Mullins)

We have received 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain in the last seven days. Grass is growing. We are behind, but it is growing now.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Getting a little rain, but have been very dry for this season.

SOUTHEASTERN

MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)

Tobacco transplanting halted due to much needed rain.

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Rain this week was helpful. Producers are planting tobacco and needed the rain for all the crops. Producers are still scouting for damage on small grains from the frost and freeze. They are also planting. Some producers are very concerned about the light hay crop this spring due to dry conditions.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Another dry week. Some rain showers occurred Sunday with a few tenths of rainfall. Corn planting is nearly finished with a few acres left. Soybeans, peanuts, and cotton will start going in the ground this coming week. Small grain and hay is visibly short this year and yield reductions are expected.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Cold and rainy conditions have slowed up progress for grain and vegetable growers alike. Disease pressure is high in strawberries and small grains.